

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06

SAJ-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /075 W

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R 241100Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1113

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IC, CH

SUBJECT: PRC AMBASSADOR BECOMES DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. PRC AMBASSADOR CHEN TUNG BECOMES DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN ICELAND TOMORROW ON DEPARTURE OF UK AMBASSADOR. SPECULATION IN FOREIGN OFFICE AND AMONG DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS PAST FEW WEEKS WAS WHETHER PRC AMBASSADOR WOULD INVITE MY WIFE AND ME TO THE TRADITIONAL RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE OF NEW DEAN IN HONOR OF DEPARTING DEAN. RECEPTION WAS HELD YESTERDAY AND WE INDEED WERE INVITED AND ATTENDED. NOTICEABLY ABSENT WAS ANY PARTICIPANT FROM SOVIET EMBASSY. AMONG THOSE PRESENT, HOWEVER, WERE THE CHARGES OF OTHER EE COUNTRIES.

2. CHEN PROCEEDED ME IN ICELAND IN 1912 BY A FEW WEEKS AND DURING ENTIRE PERIOD HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN FRIENDLINESS TOWARD US AT SOCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC

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EVENTS, OFTEN TAKING THE INITIATIVE. HE HAS NOT,

HOWEVER, GONE SO FAR AS TO INVITE US TO HIS RESIDENCE
BEFORE AND I DOUBT THERE WILL BE A REPEAT EXCEPT IN HIS
CAPACITY AS DEAN OF CORPS.

3. DURING THE ONE HOUR RECEPTION CHEN APPROACHED EACH NORDIC DIPLOMAT AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN OFFICE TO WARN THEM TO BEWARE SOVIET INTENTIONS. TO FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES HE ALSO REMARKED IT WAS GOOD AMERICAN MILITARY ARE STILL HERE TO OBSERVE CURRENT SOVIET MILITARY EXERCISE AND TO PROTECT ICELAND.

4. CHEN'S THEME IS A RECURRING ONE. LAST SUMMER HE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT ICELAND CALLING FOR RETENTION OF US-OPERATED NATO NAVAL BASE AT KEFLAVIK AND WARNING ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN NORDIC AREA. IN REYKJAVIK HE HAS ENTERTAINED EXTENSIVELY, CONCENTRATING ON STREET CLEANERS, GARBAGE COLLECTORS, AND "MAN ON THE STREET," SHOWING FILMS ABOUT THE "GOOD LIFE" IN PRC, BUT ALWAYS ENDING WITH "BEWARE THE SOVIETS." IN PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS HE HAS UNDERTAKEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SYSTEMATIC PLAN TO INDOCTRINATE MEMBERS OF FOREIGN OFFICE AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS ABOUT SOVIETS. FOREIGN MINISTER AND SEVERAL OF THE AMBASSADORS TOLD ME THAT EACH (WITH NO OTHER GUESTS PRESENT) WERE INVITED TO DINNER BY CHEN AND HIS WIFE AND WERE SUBJECTED TO A MONOLOGUE MOST OF EVENING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ASSOCIATING TOO CLOSELY WITH SOVIETS.

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